

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3231

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OAU

SUBJ: A/SEC GEN ONU'S NEWS CONFERENCE

1. A/SEC GEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PETER ONU, GAVE RESUME OF OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CM) DECISIONS THUS FAR AT FEBRUARY 18 PRESS CONFERENCE. SALIENT POINTS FOLLOW.

2. ONU STATED THAT PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT THE CM HAD "DECIDED" TO POSTPONE THE JUNE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SUMMIT MEETINGS IN KAMPALA TO JULY 18-26 AND JULY 28-AUGUST 2, RESPECTIVELY, WERE MEANT AS CM "RECOMMENDATIONS" RATHER THAN FIRM OAU DECISION. CM, ONU SAID, COULD ONLY RECOMMEND CONFERENCE DATES, LEAVING FINAL DECISION TO OAU HEADS OF STATE. COMMENT: IT IS PROBABLE

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THAT OAU CM AND SUMMIT MEETINGS WILL NOW BE POSTPONED FIVE TO SIX

WEEKS TO ALLOW AFRICAN DELEGATES TO ATTEND MOZAMBIQUE'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS AND TO PERMIT NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN CM AND SUMMIT. END COMMENT.

3. ONU STATED THAT THE MIDDLE EASTERN DEBATE WAS STILL IN PROGRESS BUT PROBABLY WOULD BE COMPLETED SOON. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE QUESTIONS OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION AND OAU ARAB LEAGUE AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE CM PLENARY. COMMENT: AFRO-ARAB FRICTION HAS APPARENTLY FLARED UP DURING THE CM. ONE REPORT INDICATES BLACK AFRICANS HAVE REQUESTED THAT A BLACK AFRICAN REPLACE KHALID MANSOUR OF SUDAN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU COMMITTEE OF SEVEN, WHICH COORDINATES ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFRICAN STATES WHICH HAVE BEEN INJURED BY INCREASED OIL PRICES. END COMMENT. ONU STATES THAT THE CM WAS WORKING TO MAKE PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEM, NOT "JUST A STATEMENT."

4. THE CM POSTPONED A DECISION ON SOMALIA'S PROPOSAL TO SET UP A REGIONAL SUB-OFFICE OF THE AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE IN MOGADISCIO.

THE OAU WILL STUDY THE PROPOSAL AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS IN TIME FOR THE OAU SUMMIT THIS SUMMER.

5. AMONG THE VARIOUS OAU CM DECISIONS TAKEN WERE (A) ZAIRE WILL HOLD THE NEXT PANAFTTEL MEETING; (B) PANAFTTEL AGREEMENT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED; (C) THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAN AFRICAN LABOR ORGANIZATION WILL BE REFERRED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS; (D) EGYPT WILL BE AFRICA'S WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CANDIDATE; (E) AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WILL BE FORMED TO DEAL WITH MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT IN AFRICA. THIS COMMITTEE WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH ECA.
COMMENT: THIS OAU ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MEETING HAS WORKED RAPIDLY. THERE WERE RUMORS THAT THE CM WOULD COMPLETE ITS BUSINESS FEBRUARY 18, THREE DAYS EARLY. HOWEVER, BLACK AFRICAN-ARAB DISAGREEMENTS -- INTER-ALIA RELATED STRUGGLE FOR CM CHAIRMANSHIP BETWEEN SUCCESSFUL MAURITANIAN FM MOUKNAS AND SIERRA LEONE'S FM LUKE -- HAVE HAMPERED A RAPID CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE. EXCEPT IN THE HALLWAYS, THERE APPARENTLY HAS BEEN LITTLE DISCUSSION OF THE ETHIOPIAN-ERITREAN ISSUE.
WYMAN

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